

T O T H E
Honourable House of C O M M O N S.

YOUR Honours has Power to save or to destroy, therefore you are term'd as gods, but must die like Men, and is as liable to be punish'd for things done amiss, as other Men, in Gods Court of Justice: And since it is so, how careful ought Your Honours to be, to do Justice between Man and Man, for God is Glorified by Justice; and since it is so hard to do, by reason of several Temptations, ought not you then to Pray to the God of Justice to assist you. Was not *Solomon's* Wisdom manifested by doing of Justice between two Harlots, and it made him Glorious in his Kingdom; and it will be much for your Honour, to do Justice between these Two Companies.

First, I would intreat Your Honours seriously to consider the great Losses and hard Dealings, that the Old Company has met with, besides Scandalous Reproaches and Vilified and Belied, and before the Honourable House of Lords, were made so Black, as if they were the worst of Mankind, and that they were not to be believed nor trusted; which might have destroyed their Reputation and Credit, if God had not been merciful: And I do not doubt but that your Honours are satisfied that they were injured, and you cannot but be sensible what a great Loss it was for to lose so many Ships, and to spend so much Money, which necessity drove them to; and although there might be some Members formerly that might do ill things, they have suffered enough for it; and God forbid that the Innocent should suffer for the Guilty. For God has declared to the contrary by *Ezekiel* the Prophet, saying, *That the Father hath eaten sour Grapes, and the Childrens Teeth are set on edge. As I live says the Lord, this Proverb shall be no more used not in Israel, but that Soul that sinneth shall die, and those that do the things that is just and right, and keeps Gods Commandments, shall save their Souls alive.*

I never heard since the King was pleased to grant them a Charter, and this Honourable House to lay the Books open, and to command the Subscribers; to bring in their Subscriptions (for who could have thought but that all things had been safe and sure (that they have ever done any thing to forfeit their Charter, or to displease this House, only this one thing, in refusing to lend the King such a vast quantity of Money, by reason of their Losses and Crosses they thought they were not able to perform; but after they Mustered up their Forces, and found that they could not possibly offered to finish the Proposal, and to lend the King the Sum as was desired, which was rejected, by the reason of the Interlopers; but how unjust thing it was then to take an advantage to destroy their Brethren, to promote themselves; I will leave it to your Honours Judgment: And the Old *East-India* Company could not be blamed for desiring to have the whole Trade, and that the Interlopers should not be allowed, being at the Charge of Forts and Garrisons: for Your Honours may see that the New Company will not allow of Interlopers, although the Old Company has so much right to it; the New ones blames the Old ones because they would not suffer Interlopers, and do not they do the same thing, though they had not the reason as others had, for they had not been at no Charge in Forts and Garrisons, and yet notwithstanding they will not suffer the Old Company to be Interlopers for all their Cost and Charge, so I see these are Gentlemen that will injure and will not receive any. I am told that the Old Company hath proffered to lend the King Money at *5 per Cent.* and you ought to be good Stewards to the King to save him all you can, and if the New Company could be out-witted I should be glad of it, and it is agreeable to his word, as you do you shall be done unto, and the same Bread you break, shall be broke to you again, not that I have any ill will against these Gentlemen, but I would not have them prosper in an ill Cause; Your Honours is obliged to be for the Old Company, for you ordered Subscriptions to be brought, and out of obedience to your Authority, and the respect to the Kings Prerogative, they yielded Obedience, which they would not have done, if you had not Commanded it, and so they are brought like Sheep to the Slaughter: therefore it is but Wisdom to keep up the Kings Prerogative and your own Power, for if you do and undoe, who can be safe; and besides it will be a Scandal to Reputation to think that Money can purchase any thing, so that People abroad will question whether we are Christians if we set so much by Money; therefore you ought to do the Old Company all the good you can, and it is but a reasonable desire, and all Men think you cannot deny it; that they may have Power to Trade with the Money they have in, and if Your Honours do not think fit to do that, I beseech you to make an Honourable Unity, and lay not any Tax upon *East-Indias* Goods, for that will be a way to destroy all, and it will not look well when Men have done all the good they can, to be so ill rewarded; therefore I desire you to use your Power for the good of all.

And in so doing you will Glorify God, and make your selves happy.
Lord Grant: So I rest your humble servant, *Edmund*